

IN FOCUS

The official publication of
The Jamaican Canadian
Association

August 1996

Serving the Black & Caribbean Community for 34 Years

Task force to review JCA services

To enhance and maintain JCA's leadership role in the Black and Caribbean community the Board of Directors has approved a task force to review the Association's operations.

This initiative will be presented to the membership for resolution at the August general meeting.

"For 34 years the JCA has operated in a dynamic environment marked by changes in the composition, issues and needs of our community," said First Vice-president Sandra Carnegie-Douglas. "With this task force, we hope to receive and act on ideas to keep the Association at the forefront in the quality of our services to members and the community."

If approved by the general membership, the review will take place in the fall, with a report ready for presentation at the quarterly general meeting in February 1997.

The task force will comprise five

members — one each elected by the Board, the membership, the staff and the seniors, and one youth representative. The group will conduct public hearings in Scarborough, Toronto, North York, Mississauga, Etobicoke, Pickering, York and Brampton, accepting written as well as verbal submissions.

Specific areas to be reviewed are:

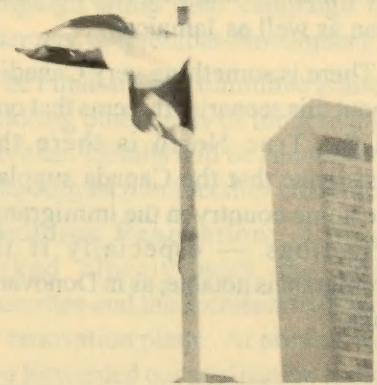
The Board: its structure, size, terms of office, nomination process, and qualifications for members.

The Membership: the effectiveness of recruitment and renewal procedures, how to retain members, the fee structure, services and activities for members, communication with members and the effectiveness of general meetings.

Social Service Program Delivery: the level of JCA involvement in providing services to the community, coping with government funding cuts, administration and the level of staff involvement in membership solicitation.

Advocacy: the JCA's position as a leading voice of the community, and its working relationship with other community organizations.

Copies of the Task Force terms of reference can be obtained by calling the JCA (416) 746-5772. *See the Task Force resolutions, page 2.*



The Jamaican flag flies high over Toronto after it was raised Aug. 4 to mark the 34th anniversary of Jamaica's independence. Metro Chairman Alan Tonks and Consul General Margarietta Ste. Juste were among the many who attended the event.

Quarterly General Meeting

...with guest speaker.

Sunday, August 25

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

JCA Centre

995 Arrow Road

Phone (416) 746-5772

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Bailey: Jamaican, Canadian or both?

After winning the gold medal in the 100 metres at the 1996 Olympics and becoming the fastest man in the world, Canadian sprinter Donovan Bailey said to some reporters that he considered himself Jamaican first.

Since then, the much quoted and misquoted athlete has had to reassure Canadian reporters (and, by extension, the Canadian people), that he was still their man — that yes, he was Canadian as well as Jamaican.

There is something very Canadian about this scenario. It seems that only in the True North is there this insistence that the Canada supplant the home country in the immigrant's affections — especially if the immigrant is notable, as in Donovan's case.

Of course, we are all painfully aware of the subtext around both Donovan's assertion of his Jamaican heritage, and the reaction to it. Ben Johnson — the last high-profile Jamaican sprinter who was wholeheartedly claimed by Canada, only to be thrust back to his Jamaican parentage when he fell from grace.

When Donovan Bailey boldly declared his pride in being Jamaican, he was serving notice that as one of this country's best athletes, being Jamaican is as important when he is on top as it would be if (heaven forbid) he should drop from the pedestal.

To us, he was also reminding the

world of the history of track excellence that springs from that small country of roughly two-and-a-half million people. The fruit of this tradition was evident throughout the Atlanta games, where Jamaicans won medals of all colours in races, long jump and hurdles.

Most ironically, Donovan was being very Canadian as he juggled his identities back and forth. He belongs to both countries, and exemplifies the best of both cultures. Both Canada and Jamaica can share in the honour of his accomplishment.

Resolutions

In accordance with the Constitution of the Jamaican Canadian Association, notice is hereby served that the following resolutions will be presented and put to vote at the quarterly general meeting of August 25, 1996:

1. Regarding amendments to clarify the language of the Constitution, incorporate conflict of interest guidelines, a code of conduct and other matters:

"Be it resolved that the proposed amendments to the Constitution as contained in the Constitution Review Committee Report be approved."

2. Regarding the Task Force Review of the Jamaican Canadian Association:

"Be it resolved that the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) establish a Task Force to examine the Association in the following areas: Board Structure, Membership

Recruitment, Retention, Services, Programs and our role in terms of Advocacy.

"Be it further resolved that the Task Force be made up of five (5) members as follows: one (1) elected by the Board, one (1) elected by the Membership, one (1) elected by the staff, one (1) elected by the seniors and one (1) youth representative.

"Be it further resolved that the Task Force conduct public hearings in Scarborough, Toronto, North York, Pickering, York, Etobicoke, Mississauga and Brampton. The Task Force will accept written as well as verbal submissions.

"Finally, be it resolved that the Task Force report its findings to the Board no later than January 15, 1997 and that the Board will report its recommendations to the membership at the February 1997 quarterly membership meeting."

Fundraising still first priority

During my first eight weeks as president my primary focus has been in the following areas:

Internal Affairs: I met with all staff to outline my expectations and vision for the JCA over the next two years and to urge them to work with the Board and membership to make this vision a reality. I have also met with each committee at least once.

Along with the First Vice-President, I have completed the proposal to establish a Task Force to review our Association. This is a very important endeavour because for us to continue our leadership role in the community we must be proactive rather than reactive. The Board shares this vision and approved the proposal at the July meeting. The full Task Force proposal will be presented to the membership at the August quarterly meeting.

I am continuing to work on ways to streamline our methods of reporting to the Board and membership. At our next membership meeting the Board will

Car sought for raffle

The Fundraising Committee is investigating the possibility of buying a medium-sized automobile at cost price to be used for a raffle. The Committee hopes to launch the tickets sales in September and conduct the draw at our New Year's Eve party.

A fish fry is being planned for September. Details will be given at the quarterly general meeting.

The Fundraising Committee encourages members to organize their own fundraising events for the JCA. However, members should inform the committee of their plans beforehand.

only present three reports: (President, Treasurer and Executive Director) This will mean a shorter meeting and it will also allow us to have a guest speaker and an opportunity for questions and answers.

Advocacy: We have taken a stand on the issue of police shootings. We have also taken a stand on the violence in our community. We had a very successful Townhall Meeting to look at this issue and future meetings are planned to continue the search for solutions. Meetings are pending with the Mayor of Toronto, the Solicitor General and with the Minister of Citizenship to discuss various issues of importance to our community. I have also written to all community organizations letting them know that the JCA would like a closer working relationship with them. So far I have met with a number of these organizations and I will continue to do so over the next few months. I believe as a community we will be more effective if we speak with a unified voice.

Fundraising: Fundraising continues to be the number one priority with me and the Board. We have asked the Chair of the Fundraising Committee to work with her Committee to find ways to launch a car raffle, hopefully by September. I have also met with a number of

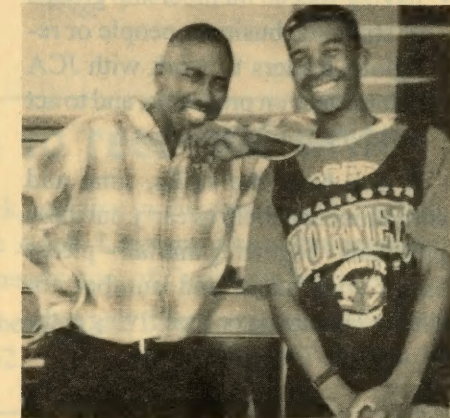
former presidents to discuss the formation of a corporate campaign drive. At present there is a small group of members making coordinating plans to launch this campaign as soon as the United Way has concluded their fundraising campaign. Since the Association receives funding from the United Way we cannot have a fundraising Campaign while their campaign is underway (September-November).

The Fundraising Committee is also exploring other areas of fundraising activities. Details will be announced at the August membership meeting.

Building Renovation: I have worked closely with the site committee and the architect to detail our renovation plans. At present we have forwarded our application to the City of North York to have 995 Arrow Road rezoned. This process will take 6-8 months to approve. Therefore, the earliest we will be able to start renovating is March 1997. It is our hope that during this waiting period we will be able to raise most, if not all, of the estimated \$750,000 necessary for the renovations. I know this is a tall order but where there is a will, there is a way. I am counting on all members to do their part. Remember: "One-one coco full basket."

Pals forever

Big Pal Horace Emmanuel (left) says so long, but not goodbye, to Little Pal Chris Brown. Both participated in the JCA's Pal program, which matches youth with adult mentors. Horace and Chris described their two-year affiliation as positive, and encourage others to become involved. To volunteer, please call (416) 740-1558.



IN FOCUS is published by the Jamaican Canadian Association, 995 Arrow Road North York, Ontario M9M 2Z5 Telephone: (416) 746-5772, Fax: (416) 746-7035

Board of Directors:

Herman Stewart, President
Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, First vice President
Alton Telfer, Second Vice-President
Cyndi Anderson, Treasurer
Maureen Smart, Executive Secretary
Alfred Irving, Membership Chair
Patricia Williams, Fundraising Chair
Amy Nelson, Building Chair
Barbara Thomas, Social Chair
Vincent Conville, Education Chair
Karl Fuller, PAST PRESIDENT
Akwatu Khenti, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Editorial Committee: Herman Stewart, Sandra Carnegie-Douglas, Alfred Irving, Billroy Powell, Elaine Thompson.

Letters and submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for length.

Membership Committee

Orientation night a hit with new members

By Alfred Irving

We revived our membership orientation night at very short notice, and were pleasantly surprised at the results. About 50 members came out to learn about the JCA and its programs. Judging by their reaction, it was apparent that the occasion was very well received.

I am pleased to report that we are making progress in updating our membership list. However, we still need to track down former members who have moved and not given us their change of address. If you know of any member who has moved recently, please remind them of the need to notify the JCA.

Since January 1996, our records show we have signed up 62 new

members. Our goal for 1996 is to sign up at least 150. Of the newly paid up members, 56 are already on the mailing list.

A majority of our previous members have not yet renewed their membership for 1996. I am appealing to those of you who have not yet paid your fee for 1996 to please do so now. Paying your dues helps us maintain communication linkages, such as In Focus.

Please mail your cheque or money order payable to the Jamaican Canadian Association. The address is 995 Arrow Road, North York, Ontario, M9M 2Z5. Don't forget to write your telephone number on the front of your cheque. Annual fees are currently \$20 for single member-

ship, and \$30 for families.

I recommend that members bring a friend whenever they visit the JCA's new location. Bear in mind that our visitors are potential members.

The Membership Committee currently has 16 members, focusing on working together as a team for the good of the JCA. We have revised the membership package, and resumed sending get-well and bereavement cards. Group visits to shut-ins and the hospitalized will be resuming soon.

Strategies to increase and maintain the membership are being discussed by our committee. A plan is being implemented to address the issue of short term and long term recruitment of members to the JCA.

I would like to express my appreciation to the JCA staff and other committee members who assisted me in getting off to a good start.

Help start membership programs

Computer lessons for youth and adult members of the JCA? Or, how about a comprehensive sports program for members - with house leagues and teams for youth, men and women?

The JCA needs your help to implement these and other ideas for getting members more involved in the Association. Membership data show that the Association steadily attracts new members, but that these members tend not to renew after their first year.

One strategy for keeping members is to offer a wider range of programs run by volunteers, to help individual members develop personal skills while increasing their sense of community.

Other ideas for retaining membership include:

- having the JCA sponsor

development programs for young members such as Junior Achievement or Girl Guides;

- offering piano lessons, or forming a JCA band or choir;
- sponsoring high school proms and socials;
- developing a "community course" for adolescent members, focusing on courses that help prepare them for adulthood;
- having special membership groups of students, business people or religious leaders to work with JCA committees on programs, and to act as advisors on key issues.

If you have the skills, time and commitment to help us carry out these programs - beginning this fall - please leave your name and number for Elaine Thompson or Fred Irving at the JCA (416) 746-5772.

Don't move

...without telling us!

Stay in touch and ensure you keep getting your copy of *In Focus*. Please inform us of your new address and telephone numbers when you move. Call (416) 746-5772.

Pictures wanted!

In Focus wants to celebrate the milestones and achievements of our membership. Send your pictures in care of In Focus at the JCA. (Sorry, we cannot mail back photographs, but will hold them for pick-up.)

JCA Dignity camp 40 strong

By Janet Millington, Family Service Worker

The 6th Annual JCA Summer Day Camp, run by the Caribbean Youth and Family Services in the Jane/Finch area, is currently in full swing. The camp is located at C.W. Jefferys Public School and operates 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. Our theme this year is "Dignity: Living It".

The camp has 40 children ranging in ages from 7 to 15 years old. Six energetic and caring counsellors -- Teena Riley, Ricardo Rose, Kevin A. Stewart, Kevin J. Stewart, Shein Stephenson and NiKeshia Hudson -- manage the day to day operations under the auspices of the CYFS.

The campers have been enjoying activities such as cultural spelling bee, games, basketball, swimming, black heritage classes and much more. They have also visited the Ontario Science Centre, Douglas Snow Aquatic Centre, Yorkwoods Library and Isle of the Treasure Bookstore. The Campers were delighted with the many cultural and mainstream books and games at the Isle of the Treasure Bookstore, a black-owned and operated establishment.

On July 17th the campers met Donald McLeod, up and coming lawyer. He led a frank and open discussion with the campers about "The law and how it affects you."

Thanks to the campers, and to the



Dignity Camp counsellors include, from left: Kevin J. Stewart, Kevin A. Stewart, Teena Riley, Shein Stephenson and NiKeshia Hudson. Below, participants in the Dignity camp show off their work, with counsellor Teena Riley.



camp counsellors, Marcia at the Isle of the Treasure Bookstore and Donald for their contributions so far.

If you would like to volunteer or make donations for next year's summer camp, please call us at (416) 740-1558.

Join the JCA today. Call (416) 746-5772

Tutors needed

The JCA runs a Saturday morning tutoring program in math and English for children aged 7 to 13 years old.

Classes run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., during the school year.

We are currently looking for volunteer tutors to start in September.

For more information, please call (416) 746-5772.

Help an adult learn to read and write

If you can spare two hours a week, and live in the west end of Toronto - we need you to help tutor in the **Adult Literacy For Advancement (ALFA)** program. We especially need tutors of Caribbean heritage.

Tutor training takes place September 14th and 21st. For more information please call ALFA at (416) 652-3652.

Immigration changes affect Caribbean newcomers

By Yasmin Thomas, ISAP Counsellor

Here are some recent administrative and legislative changes in Canadian immigration that may affect the Caribbean community:

Mail-in Applications: On April 1, 1994, a new mail-in application service was created, operating from two new Case Processing Centres (CPCs) based in Mississauga, Ontario and Vegreville, Alberta.

The CPCs process applications, finalize positive decisions, and notify clients by mail. The Mississauga CPC provides mail-in service for overseas sponsorships, while the Vegreville CPC handles mail-in

applications for permanent resident status by Convention refugees; permanent resident status by visitors to Canada; extensions of visitor status; and student/employment authorization and, extensions.

Local immigration offices continue to provide clients information regarding their application status, where to pick up application kits, verification of costs, and general information regarding application procedure.

Family Class Sponsorship: You may now sponsor a wife or husband, parents, grandparents, fiancé, dependent children and all other relatives if they are under the age of 19 and orphaned. You may also sponsor a dependent son or daughter 19 and older who are full time students, disabled, or who require total support; children under the age of 19 whom you plan to adopt; and

any other relative if you do not have any relatives living with you in Canada.

Assisted Relative Class: Those who do not qualify under the family class, aunts/uncles, assisted relatives may now apply for permanent residence as independent applicants. Applications are evaluated on a point system in the areas of education, skills, profession, desired place to live in Canada, knowledge of English/French, work experience and personal suitability.

Landed Fee Tax: As of February 1, 1995, a landed fee tax of \$975 is required to obtain permanent resident status in Canada for persons 19 years of age and older. You must still pay an application fee of \$500, which is non-refundable. However, the landed fee tax will be refunded if your application is denied.

Newcomers enjoy summertime learning

By Michelle Allick, ISAP Counsellor

Newcomers from the Caribbean are having fun learning about their community, courtesy of a new summer program sponsored by the Jamaican Canadian Association and four other community agencies.

From July 3, 1996 to August 21, 1996, newcomers meet once a week and deal with topics such as employment, health, law, housing, art, and education. The group of newcomers also tour community organizations and institutions related to the topic for the week. This gives them the opportunity to learn how to access resources in the community and how to use public transit.

The summer program was organized through a partnership between the Jamaican Canadian Association, the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizen's Organization, Tropicana, Harriet Tubman Organization, and COSTI.

Social Committee

Summer activities a success

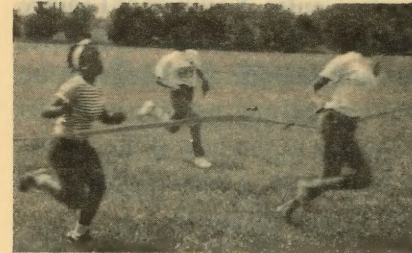
By Barbara Thomas

The annual summer picnic, held this year in Burlington saw fine weather and a good turnout of families and friends who socialized and shared thoughts, food and friendship.

There were the domino revellers,

the Scrabble experts, the walkers, swimmers and even the participants in children's activities. Nevertheless, we couldn't have ended the day without having snow cones with none other than Mr. David Sinclair's home-made syrup.

cont'd next page



Everyone was a winner at the JCA's annual picnic at Emily Bronte Park in Burlington.

Workfare needs closer scrutiny

By Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

On June 12, 1996 the Ontario Government launched Ontario Works, its work-for-welfare program, in 20 communities. A second phase is expected begin this fall, and full implementation by 1998.

The program requires, social assistance recipients who are able to work to earn their welfare cheque, as of September 1996. They will either participate in community work improvement projects organized by municipalities and local groups; or they will have to enroll in training programs. Welfare recipients working in community services will work up to 17 hours per week on average, and are expected to spend the rest of the week looking for jobs.

Seniors and persons with disabilities are exempted from the program. Single parents with young children are currently exempt, but may be required to enter workfare

as the program expands.

Workfare is one more instalment in the Ontario Progressive Conservative's agenda for social reform. The government claims that requiring social assistance recipients to work for their welfare cheques will help break their dependency on the public purse, bring them in contact with potential

Ontario's strategy for social reform is distinctly aimed at dismantling the social security system.

employers, allow them to give something back to their community, and reinforce the value of community service.

Some applaud this move by the Progressive Conservatives, accepting it at face value. But a closer scrutiny of workfare raises questions about whether the goals are as easily attained - or as cost-efficient - as the government would like us to believe.

From a philosophical standpoint, the program is based on the view that social assistance as it is currently delivered is a "handout." But describing welfare as a "handout" suggests that people are getting assistance they do not deserve. This is offensive and demeaning. It also places every social assistance recipient in the same basket, regardless of individual circumstances.

Workfare also assumes that

people receiving social assistance should be prepared to take any kind of job - regardless of childcare needs, working conditions, long-term employment prospects, and personal fulfilment.

Most significantly, workfare directly challenges the tradition and basic philosophy of the Canadian social assistance system - namely, that the government has a responsibility to meet the needs of individuals and groups adversely affected by the economy, to protect their rights, and to take action when existing institutions fail to deal with their needs. Government is seen to have a moral obligation to develop responsible social policy.

In its pursuit of fiscal constraints, the Ontario Government has clearly challenged the Canadian social assistance tradition. Ontario's strategy for social reform is distinctly aimed at dismantling the social security system - a strategy certain to create polar extremes of wealth and poverty in the province.

Next issue: Scrutinizing the goals of workfare.

The JCA Violence Against Women Program

Services are free and confidential. Immediate appointments available.

For further information, telephone: Rita McLean, Counsellor, (416)746-5772.

Notices

CALENDAR 96

Quarterly General Meeting Nov. 21
New Year's Eve Dinner Dec. 31

Please note that other activities may arise during the course of the year. For the latest information, please call the JCA at (416) 746-5772.

Reminder

Keep your membership dues current.
Dues are still \$20 per individual, \$30 per family.

To find out more about the JCA and member activities, please call (416) 746-5772.

Advertise in IN FOCUS

Reasonable rates. Target market.

For more information, please call Billroy Powell, (416) 746-5772.

1996 JCA BINGO SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Coordinator
Aug. 24	1:00 - 3:00	M. Amiel
Aug. 30	7:15 - 9:15	B. Carter
Sept. 6	10:15 - 12:15	N.L. Bailey
Sept. 21	1:00 - 3:00	M. Amiel
Oct. 4	7:15 - 9:15	B. Carter
Oct. 19	10:15 - 2:15	N.L. Bailey
Nov. 2	1:00 - 3:00	M. Amiel
Nov. 9	1:00 - 3:00	B. Carter
Nov. 15	10:15 - 12:15	N.L. Bailey
Dec. 6	7:15 - 9:15	M. Amiel
Dec. 21	1:00 - 3:00	B. Carter

The Jamaican Canadian Association

Services to Ontario's Black and Caribbean community for over 34 years. Services for youth, seniors and women. Volunteers always welcomed and appreciated.

Head Office: 995 Arrow Road, North York, Ontario M9M 2Z5.
Telephone: (416) 746-5772; fax (416) 746-7035.

Caribbean Youth and Family Services: 2065 Finch Ave W. #412, Downsview Ontario M3N 2V7. Telephone: (416) 740-1558; fax (416) 740-3918.

Scarborough Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP): W.I. Porter Collegiate, 40 Fairfax Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1L 1Z9. Telephone: (416) 751-2031, ext. 223; fax (416) 396-3371.

Caribbean-Canadian Seniors Group

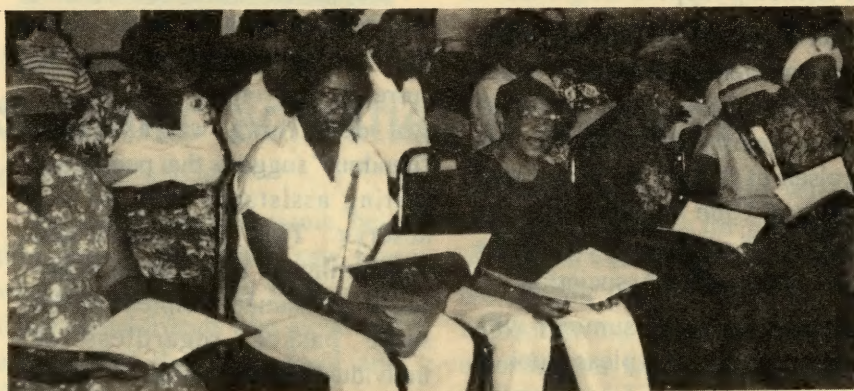
995 Arrow Road
Mon. Tues. & Thurs.
11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

We welcome all seniors who would like to get out and meet others.

Our activities include: arts and crafts, choral group, discussions, seminars and field trips.

Come and meet people who will treat you like family and a friend.

For more information, please call us at 746-5772.



Caribbean Seniors' Club members enjoy a sing-along during their Tuesday meeting at the JCA Centre.